

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for communicating with a device-camera connectable to a network, the method comprising:
 - enabling the device-camera to function as a unique instant messenger client for an instant messenger service; and
 - receiving messages from the device-camera over the network via the instant messenger service;
 - whereby the device-camera, instead of a human user, acts as the instant messenger client, and becomes a buddy on the instant messenger service.
2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the enabling of the device-camera to function as an instant messenger client comprises:
 - registering a unique login with the instant messenger service for the device-camera; and
 - programming the unique login into the device-camera.
3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - pre-defining at least one pre-existing user of the instant messenger service with whom the device-camera is allowed to communicate.
4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - sending messages to the device-camera over the network over the instant messenger service.
5. (currently amended) The method of claim 4, further comprising:
 - pre-defining at least one message which can be sent to the device-camera, and at least one action to be taken by the device-camera upon receiving the message.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the messages received from the device-camera over the network via the instant messenger service are initiated by the device-camera in response to a pre-specified criterion being satisfied.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the device-camera is a webcam.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the webcam initiates sending a message over the network via the instant messenger service when the webcam detects motion.

9. (cancel)

10. (currently amended) A method for communicating with a device-camera using an instant messenger service, the method comprising:

enabling the device-camera to function as an instant messenger client for the instant messenger service;

connecting the device-camera to a network;

receiving messages from the device-camera over the network over the instant messenger service; and

sending messages to the device-camera over the network over the instant messenger service;

whereby the devicecamera, instead of a human user, acts as the instant messenger client, and becomes a buddy on the instant messenger service.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising: pre-defining at least one message which can be sent to the devicecamera, and at least one action to be taken by the device-camera upon receiving the message.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the messages received from the device-camera over the network are initiated by the device-camera in response to a pre-specified criterion being satisfied.

13. (currently amended) A device camera enabled to function as a unique instant messenger user over a network, the device camera comprising:

an autonomous IM application module, which identifies the device camera as a unique instant messenger user to an instant messenger service; and

a network interface coupled to the autonomous IM application module, to connect to the network to communicate with at least one other instant messenger user over the instant messenger service;

whereby the device camera, instead of a human user, acts as the instant messenger client, and becomes a buddy on the instant messenger service.

14. (currently amended) The device camera of claim 13, wherein the autonomous imaging module initiates communication with the at least one other instant messenger user.

15. (currently amended) The device camera of claim 13, wherein the device camera is a camerawebcam.

16. (currently amended) The device camera of claim 13, wherein the device camera is a camera compliant with a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP).

17. (currently amended) The device camera of claim 13, wherein the device camera is a camera compliant with a SIP for Instant Messaging Presence Leveraging Extension protocol (SIMPLE).

18. (currently amended) The device camera of claim 13, further comprising: a predefined instructions module coupled to the autonomous IM application, to instruct the device camera regarding interpreting instant messages received from the at least one other instant messenger user.